

BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, the son of Nellie Wilson Reagan and John Reagan. He was educated in Illinois public schools and was graduated from Eureka College (Illinois) in 1932, with a degree in economics and sociology.

Following a brief career as a sports broadcaster and editor, Mr. Reagan moved to California to work in motion pictures. His film career, interrupted by three years of service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, encompassed 50 feature-length motion pictures. He served six terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild and two terms as president of the Motion Picture Industry Council.

In 1952 he married Nancy Davis. They have two grown children, Patricia Ann and Ronald Prescott. President Reagan has two other children, Maureen and Michael, by a previous marriage.

From motion pictures he went into television in the 1950's as production supervisor and host of "General Electric Theatre." In 1964-65 he was host of the television series "Death Valley Days."

In 1966 Ronald Reagan began his public service career with his election—by nearly a million-vote margin—as Governor of California. Mr. Reagan was Chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 1969. He was elected to a second term as Governor of California in 1970. After completing his second term, Mr. Reagan began a nationally syndicated radio commentary program and newspaper column and undertook an extensive speaking schedule, speaking to civic, business, and political groups. In 1974-75 he served as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the CIA.

In November 1975 he announced his candidacy for the 1976 presidential nomination. He lost narrowly, but campaigned vigorously for the Republican ticket and for scores of local candidates in 1976. After the election, he renewed his radio commentary program, newspaper column, and national speaking schedule. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee on the Present Danger and founded the Citizens for the Republic. In the 1978 elections he campaigned on behalf of 86 candidates.

In November 1979 Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for the 1980 presidential nomination. At the Republican National Convention in July 1980 he was nominated unanimously on the first ballot. On November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected to the Presidency, by an electoral vote of 489-49, and on January 20, 1981, he was sworn in as the 40th President of the United States.

Mr. Reagan has received a number of awards, including: National Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews; City of Hope "Torch of Life" Award for Humanitarian Service; Horatio Alger Award; American Newspaper Guild Award; Freedoms Foundation Awards; Distinguished American Award from the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame; American Patriots Hall of Fame; and Medal of Valor of the State of Israel.